In the Claims:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A system for programming a microprocessor-controlled device having a limited set of functions, comprising:

a computer program specific to the microprocessor-controlled device, the program stored in and executable from digital memory accessible to a computing appliance other than the microprocessor-controlled device; and

an interactive interface presented by the computer program on a display of the computing appliance, enabling a user to select through the interactive display individual ones of the limited set of functions of the microprocessor-controlled device, and to select specific times for initiating the functions selected, the selected functions and specific times comprising output information of the computer program;

wherein the computer program saves the output information to be transferred to the microprocessor-controlled device.

21. (New) The system of claim 20 further comprising a portable memory medium, wherein the output information is saved to the portable memory medium to be transferred to the microprocessor-controlled device.

22. (New) The system of claim 21 wherein the portable memory medium is a magnetic strip card, and the downloading mechanism is a magnetic strip writer connected to the computer appliance.

23. (New) The system of claim 21 wherein the portable memory medium is a thumb drive having a USB male connector.

24. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the computer appliance is a personal computer (PC).

25. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the computing appliance has a port to an Internet network, and the computer program is downloaded from a Web site in the Internet network.

26. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the computer program is uploaded from a compact disk read-only memory (CD-ROM).

27. (New) The system of claim 26 wherein the CD-ROM is provided by a manufacturer of the microprocessor-controlled device.

28. (New) The system of claim 21 further comprising the programmable device, the device having an interface for the portable memory medium.

29. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the portable memory medium is a magnetic strip card, the computing device has a magnetic strip card writer, and the microprocessor-controlled device has a magnetic strip card reader.

30. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein the portable memory medium is a U.S.B. thumb drive, and both the computing device and the microprocessor-controlled device have a U.S.B. port.

31. (New) A method for programming a microprocessor-controlled device having a limited set of functions, comprising steps of:

(a) selecting through an interactive display presented by a computer program specific to the microprocessor-controlled device on a monitor screen of a computer

appliance individual ones of the limited set of functions of the microprocessor-controlled device;

selecting for the individual functions selected specific times for initiating the functions; and

providing the selected functions and times for initiation as output information to be transferred to the microprocessor-controlled device.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 further comprising a step for downloading the output information to a portable memory medium for transfer to the microprocessor-controlled device.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the portable memory medium is a magnetic strip card and the downloading mechanism is a magnetic strip writer connected to the computer appliance.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the portable memory medium is a thumb drive having a USB male connector, and the downloading mechanism includes a U.S.B. port.

35. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the computer appliance is a personal computer (PC).

36. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the computing appliance has a port to an Internet network, and the computer program is downloaded from a Web site in the Internet network.

37. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the computer program is uploaded from a compact disk read-only memory (CD-ROM).

38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the CD-ROM is provided by a manufacturer of the microprocessor-controlled device.

39. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising the programmable device, the device having an interface for the portable memory medium.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the portable memory medium is a magnetic strip card, the computing device has a magnetic strip card writer, and the microprocessor-controlled device has a magnetic strip card reader.

41. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the portable memory medium is a U.S.B. thumb drive, and both the computing device and the microprocessor-controlled device have a U.S.B. port.